

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 061050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4182

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 466

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST FINANCE MINISTER BANDARANAIKE

REF: 75 COLOMBO 4083

1. OPPOSITION PARTIES IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 5 INTRODUCED MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE, FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, COUSIN OF PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE'S LATE HUSBAND. BANDARANAIKE, VERY BRIGHT AND CAPABLE BUT ARROGANT, WOULD NOT WIN POPULARITY CONTEST IN OWN PRTY TO SAY NOTHING OF OPPOSTION.

2. MOTION, SIGNED BY HEADS OF ALL FOUR OPPOSITION

PARTIES IN ASSEMBLY, ALLEGED THATNBANDARANAIKE HAD ABUSED HIS POWERS AS MINISTER OF FINANCE BY APPOINTING SECOND MINISTERIAL SECRETARY NOT PROVIDED FOR IN CONSITITUTION. NEW SECRETARY, MINISTER'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING STATE GEM CORPORATION WHILE HE HIMSELF IS MEMBER OF PARTNERSHIP REGISTERED WITH CORPORATION AS GEM DEALER--ANOTHER OFFINSE, ACCORDING TO MOTION.

3. AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE,HE IS ACCUSED OF

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ATTEMPTING TO FABRICATE EVIDENCE AGAINST UNITED

NATIONAL PARTY LEADER J.R. JAYewardene IN ORDER TO
DISQUALIFY HIM FROM ELECTION DURING COLOMBO SOUTH
BY-ELECTION JULY 1975.

4. OTHER ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE INCLUDING IMPROPERLY
INFLUENCING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, MISUSING INSIDE
INFORMATION, AND MISLEADING ASSEMBLY. NONE OF CHARGES IN
MOTION IS PARTICULARLY SHOCKING OR NOVEL LOCALLY.
MOST HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY.

5.GOVERNMENT WITH ITS 104 MEMBERS IN 156-MEMBER
ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY DEFEATING MOTION
AS THEY DEFEATED NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST PRIME
MINISTER DECEMBER 23, 1975 (REFTEL). THISMOTION IS
CONTINUATION OF OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN WE DESCRIBED AT
THAT TIME TO ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS PM AND HER FAMILY
BY PUBLICLY DISPLAYING WHATEVER DIRTY LINEN CAN BE
FOUND.

6. REPORTEDLY MOTION IS LIKSEY TO BE DEBATED AND VOTED
ON FEBRUARY 19.

VAN HOLLEN

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